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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 5
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

China, Colombia, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Peru and Thailand: revised draft resolution**

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[1] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[2]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[3] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan

* The present revised draft resolution has not been formally edited.
** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.
[1] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.
[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

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of Action,[4] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development[5] and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account those Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Recalling Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009, 53/6 of 12 March 2010, 54/4 of 25 March 2011, 55/4 of 16 March 2012, 57/1 of 21 March 2014 and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[6] and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to their achievement,

Taking note of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,[7] which includes conclusions and recommendations drawn from the field visits, the seminar/workshop and the high-level International Conference, and noting in particular the alternative development projects, as seen in the field visits, focused on enhancing individual and community resilience, and recognized as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of His Majesty the King of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges, and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain a major challenge in countering the world drug problem, and recognize the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.
[5] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[7] E/CN.7/2016/13.

development, has only accounted for a minor share of official development assistance and has only reached a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation on a global level,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the outcomes of the international seminar/workshop and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand, and Shan State, Myanmar, from 19 to 24 November 2015 and hosted by the Government of Thailand, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in accordance with national legislation, as an input to continue to discuss and enhance the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

2 *Reaffirms*, as highlighted in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating, or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

3. *Urges* Member States affected by or at risk of illicit crop cultivation to consider integrating comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, into national development policies and strategies, as appropriate, in order to address illicit crop cultivation and its related socioeconomic factors and provide sustainable alternative livelihoods and significantly contribute to the building of inclusive and just societies in order to reduce inequality within and among countries;

4. *Also urges* Member States when formulating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, strategies and policies to take into account the specific needs of the communities and groups affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies;

5. *Stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, should focus on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, and take into account their specific needs, and strengthening local capacities when designing and implementing alternative development programmes and projects, and that the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development;

6. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available in tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government; strengthens local governance and institutions and promotes peaceful and inclusive societies which under Sustainable Development Goal 16 includes the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by individuals and communities as well as the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

8 *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

9. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes consistent with domestic law and regulations as well as with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

10. *Emphasizes* that the marketability of products stemming from alternative development programmes should be assessed before implementing alternative development programmes and, where applicable, alternative development products should be aimed at creating value-added chains to enable target communities to obtain higher incomes in order to support sustainable livelihoods and substitute the income generated from illicit crop cultivation;

11. *Encourages* the international community, including inter alia, the civil society, scientific community and academia, to work with the affected communities to develop recommendations, focusing on specific alternative development strategies taking into account demographic, cultural, social, and geographical conditions, including ideas to support and promote new products;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development[8] when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects, and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

13. *Urges* Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies, and to continue engaging in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

14. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their rural development support for regions and populations affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops through long-term and flexible funding, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to remain strongly committed to financing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

[8] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intra-governmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

16. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialised agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the UNODC in order to support member states in effectively implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventative alternative development, with a view to further enhance coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;

17. *Further encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best practices, promote research and increase efforts on the promotion of alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development;

18. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

19. *Reiterates* that in addition to estimate of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators should be used when assessing alternative development programmes in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit the affected communities;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, that target the illicit cultivation of crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including provision of public services such as water supply, energy, health, education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen communities' resilience;

21. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to

continue sharing, upon request, best practices, promoting research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and fostering and strengthening international cooperation, including cross-continental and interregional cooperation, and subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development;

23. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.